

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A hydrodynamic bearing system, comprising:

a one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component, further comprising a shaft portion and a thrust plate portion,

wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is formed by powder injection molding process.

2. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising a sleeve, said sleeve having a cylindrical inner bore, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned within said cylindrical inner bore of said sleeve.

3. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned at a bottom end of said shaft portion.

4. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 3, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a thin thrust plate.

5. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned at a midsection of said shaft portion.

6. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a rotating element of said hydrodynamic bearing system.

7. (Original) The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a fixed element of said hydrodynamic bearing system.

8. (Original) A spindle motor with a hydrodynamic bearing system, comprising:  
a one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component, further comprising a shaft portion and a thrust plate portion,  
wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is formed by powder injection molding process.

9. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 8 further comprising a sleeve, said sleeve having a cylindrical inner bore, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned within said cylindrical inner bore of said sleeve.

10. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 8, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned at a bottom end of said shaft portion.

11. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 10, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a thin thrust plate.

12. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 8, wherein said thrust plate portion of said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is positioned at a midsection of said shaft portion.

13. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 8, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a rotating element of said hydrodynamic bearing system.

14. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 8, wherein said one-piece thrust-plate/shaft component is a fixed element of said hydrodynamic bearing system.

15. – 17. (Cancelled)